Collection Policy:
California Spatial Information Library (CaSIL)

General Collection Principles

CaSIL is an active online repository of California geospatial data. CaSIL provides free access to geospatial data and metadata for the State of California, with special emphasis on natural resources.

Data Partners

Most data in CaSIL are collected through partnerships with individual and institutional data providers. While CaSIL is dedicated to providing access to accurate and useable data, data partners and providers are ultimately responsible for the quality of individual data sets and the adequacy of related metadata.

Metadata

CaSIL data and metadata files are collected, distributed and archived in the California Environmental Information Catalog (CEIC – http://gis.ca.gov/catalog) at the CERES Program (http://ceres.ca.gov) and UC Davis Center for Space Technology and Remote Sensing (http://cstars.ucdavis.edu). CaSIL encourages the use of metadata for purposes of use and resource discovery.. All data files should be cataloged according to FGDC standards (CSDGM—The Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata). Every effort will be made to see that all data are accompanied by FGDC compliant metadata.

Data

CaSIL geospatial data are distributed by the CERES Program, CSTARS, and mirrors hosted by other partners. For inclusion in CaSIL, data must fall within a defined subject and scope and meet specified standards of content and format set by the California Mapping Coordinating Committee. Each file is evaluated according to its content, usability, value, and utility within the wider collection. Data and metadata already available at other sites may be archived within CaSIL. Whenever possible, individual data files (map layers) will be made available separately so users can download only those files of interest. Older versions of data files that are frequently updated and succeeded by newer versions will be archived.

Subject Definition and Scope

Data collected for CaSIL represents a wide range of environmental characteristics for the State of California. Some of the datasets CaSIL collects (or provides links to) include data in the following areas:

- Remote Sensing imagery at various scales from 30m to 0.33m for all or parts of the State.
- USGS and other maps of California
- Positional data (streets, political and place boundaries, major physical features and structures)

- Landforms and topography
- Soil types and characteristics
- Transportation
- Geopolitical
- Health
- Hydrography
- Agricultural activities (crops and livestock)
- Natural resource management activities (forestry, fisheries, etc.)
- Wildlife data (distribution, characteristics, migration, etc.)
- Environmental hazards (hazardous waste sites, etc.)
- Other environmental characteristics (land use, climate, etc.)

Geographical Scope

The geographic scope of the datasets contained in CaSIL are:

- State of California data
- Federal Government data covering California
- California Counties'/Regional Government data
- Data for adjacent areas with significant impact on California

File Formats and Types

It is our objective to use file formats that can serve the widest possible audience. File formats will be chosen to facilitate sharing of data and should accommodate users who do not have access to proprietary software or those who do not have access to the latest versions of proprietary and non-proprietary software. In most cases, data provided by our collaborating agencies will be made accessible in the format in which they were provided.

Current formats within CASIL include (but are not limited to):

- .shp (Shapefile and associated files)
- .tif (geotiff)
- .e00 (Arc/Info export)
- .dem (digital elevation model)
- .SID (MrSID files)
- .zip (compressed files)
- .mdb Personal geodatabase
- Some additional specialized formats for LandSAT data products

Note: We would like to thank Cornell University Geographic Information Repository for providing the template for our Collection Policy - http://cugir.mannlib.cornell.edu/about.jsp